

KARO-ECHO Membership Meeting

November 8, 2021

via Zoom

Attendees

Hal Graboske	KK6NDF
Howdy Goudey	KE6BEE
Don Simon	NI6A
Annette McCoubrey	KJ6SWK
Tom Fattaruso	KN6BUY
Frans Kuypers	KJ6IUV
Diane Richwine	KK6RED
David Swanson	KJ6AAT
Jerry Michaels	K6KOP
Karen Leong Fenton	KK6ZPM
Jay Fenton	KJ6WSS
Blake Yeaman	KN6CMP
Curt Smith	KM6HFT
Michael Gold	AJ6RZ
Martha Richards	K6ELO
David Naisuler	KN6BVF
Tessa Rudnick	

Agenda:

Training and Operations - Howdy

- Preparation for Fall SET, Sat., Nov. 13, 10-12pm
- Digital Net report, FL-digi, weekly, Wednesday, 1930 on 11/10 (prep for SET)

Old business

- GMRS radio update - Hal

New business

- Report from KE Board Officer Nomination Committee (Don, Annette)
- Report from KE Constitution Update Committee (Don, Martha)
- Pursuing an MOU, next steps

Tech./Infrastructure

- Report on new patch boxes

Elmering

- Recent request/updates
- Treasurer/Funding
- Treasurer report
- Outreach/PR/web
- Neighborhood nets and Comm. hubs
- 1st Wed., reports

The meeting was called to order.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the October meeting minutes.

Tessa Rudnick, El Cerrito City Council member and member of the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority, joined the first part of the meeting. She has now become a KARO-ECHO member and has been added to the email distribution.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the agenda.

Training session

Planning for Nov. 13 fall SET

- 13 participants are registered for the SET.
- A digital communication practice net will be held 11/10 at 1930 in preparation for the SET.
- If a command post is also a hub for neighborhood FRS/GMRS operators, ideally two operators are needed. If there is not a separate operator for FRS/GMRS during the SET, the ham operator should announce to net control that they are leaving the ham net when talking with FRS/GMRS operators.
- Practice messages will be scheduled for the SET. In an actual emergency event it wouldn't be so orderly. The intended recipient might not always be available.
- In addition to scheduled messages, impromptu messages are encouraged.
- Digital messages will be scheduled for pairs of operators who have digital equipment, using only one mode during the SET, MT63. 146.415MHz will be for voice only with digital messages on a different frequency.
- QST announcement type messages could be collected and retransmitted another time during the SET.

Business session

Old business

- 7 of 10 GMRS radios have been distributed, distributing the remainder is still being coordinated.

New business

- Nominations for 3 of the club officers have been made, a nomination for vice president is still needed.
- Constitution update:
 - 6 drafts have been made so far and there are many ideas and details.
 - Clean up and shortening of old version sections is needed.
 - What should be the definition of a quorum?
 - Regulations for standing committees
- The possibility of a Memorandum of Understanding was discussed.
 - Up until now the relationship with emergency services has been informal.
 - It has been hard to know who the contact person for a formal MOU should be (fire chief? police chief?) because of recent changes in personnel.
 - A draft of an MOU will be sent to Tessa Rudnick.

Technical / Infrastructure

- There have been no objections to the plan to install antennas and patchboxes at the clubhouses that do not have them yet so it is likely that we may proceed with the plan.

Treasurer report

- A suggestion was made to include a treasurer's report in the monthly meeting agenda and possibly specify this in the constitution. It was suggested that this should be discussed by the board.

Elmering

- Elmering activity was light in the preceding month with one question on mounting an antenna on a roof and another question about a NVIS antenna.

Outreach / Recruiting - nothing to report for the preceding month

Neighborhood Nets

- Howdy's GMRS channel 19 repeater was tried on the November 1st Wednesday.
- There were 26 check-ins but only about half were activating the repeater, possibly because of not understanding that the PL tone needed to be changed to 123Hz.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting.